

U.S. Application No. 09/937,163 Response to Office Action Mailed November 26, 2003

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 15 (cancelled)

16. **(currently amended)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a non-rotating mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package so that said opening in said package sleeve is oriented outward; and

attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve, wherein said tear-off strip is attached at said mandrel of said mandrel wheel.

- 17. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said package sleeve is conveyed to said filling machine in such a way that its opening points outward across the working direction of said filling machine.
- 18. **(previously presented)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90°

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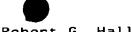
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between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on said filling machine and the location where said tear-off strip is attached.

19. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said mandrel wheel is driven in cycles and has at least two mandrels; and

wherein said tear-off strip is applied using at least one welding device which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted again after said tear-off strip has been welded.

- 20. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip or a pouring element is applied upstream from an aseptic station of said filling machine.
- 21. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by welding.
- 22. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 21, wherein said tear-off strip or said pouring element is attached by ultrasonic welding or highfrequency welding.
- 23. A method according to Claim 16, wherein said (previously presented) tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by gluing.





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- 24. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip or a pouring element is pulled off from a supply roll having a plurality of tear-off strips or pouring elements.
- 25. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 24, wherein said tear-off strip or said pouring element is conveyed by means of feed rollers and is detached from said supply roll by a cutting device.
- 26. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said tear-off strip consists of a tear-resistant aluminum strip.
- 27. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said filling machine is a filling machine having multiple lanes.
- 28. (previously presented) A laminated package having an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, as produced by the method of Claim 16.
- 29. (currently amended) A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material; coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening:

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creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a non-rotating mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package so that said opening in said package sleeve is oriented outward; and

attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve, wherein said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90° between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on said filling machine and the location where said tear-off strip is attached.

30. **(previously presented)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a mandrel of a mandrel wheel driven in cycles having at least two mandrels upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package; and

attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,
wherein said tear-off strip is applied using at least one welding device
which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted again after said
tear-off strip has been welded.



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31. (currently amended) A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a non-rotating mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package so that said opening in said package sleeve is oriented outward; and

attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve,

wherein said tear-off strip is attached with the help of an anvil when said package sleeve is in the region of a pocket cell of a pocket conveyor.